

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4884

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, UNDP, (JOHN J. GILLIGAN)
SUBJ: UN RESTRUCTURING: FRENCH VIEWS

REF: STATE 138400, B) GENEVA 4839

1. IN A STATEMENT WHICH ALSO IS RELEVANT TO GENERAL QUESTION OF UN RESTRUCTURING, THE FRENCH DELEGATION AT UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION ON FUTURE ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF UNDP EMPHASIZED VIEW THAT UNDP CANNOT ACT AS THE SINGLE FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING MECHANISM FOR UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM AS A WHOLE. EACH SPECIALIZED AGENCY AS WELL AS UNDP HAS ITS OWN SPECIAL PLACE AND ROLE IN SYSTEM.

MOREOVER, UNDP AND ITS GC CANNOT REPLACE GOVERNMENTS IN SETTING PRIORITIES FOR OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS. CONSISTENT WITH THIS VIEW, FRENCH ARGUED FOR INCLUSION UNFPA WITHIN COUNTRY PROGRAM PRINCIPLE AND OPPOSED SETTING OF QUANTITATIVE TARGETS FOR UNDP PROCUREMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO MEET TCDC OBJECTIVES.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH US DELEGATES, THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE UNDERLINED THAT THE KEY FRENCH CONCERN IS MAINTENANCE OF FRENCH LEADERSHIP OF A SIGNIFICANT ESA.

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THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO FRENCH IN VIEW AMERICAN LEADERSHIP OVER "MOST" OTHER MAJOR MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENTAL MATTERS (E.G., WORLD BANK, UNDP, DAC). HE ALSO ELABORATED ON FRENCH PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH COMMISSIONER ATTACHED TO UN SYG WHO WOULD HAVE THE AUTHORITY PRESENTLY LACKING IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM OF ADJUDICATING DISPUTES AMONG CONSITTUTENT AGENCIES, MOST NOTABLY BETWEEN

UNDP AND SPECILAIZED AGENCIES. HE MADE CLEAR THAT ESTABLISH-
MENT THIS NEW OFFICE WOULD NOT RPT NOT AFFECT PRESENT STRUCTURE
OF ESA AND ITS OFFICE OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

3. OTHER POINTS FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE MADE PRIVATELY TO US
ON THIS QUESTION INCLUDED:

(A) UNDP IS CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS,
WHEREAS UN AGENCIES' OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDE PROGRAMS
FALLING OUTSIDE UNDP'S TERMS OF REFERENCE. THERFORE, OUR
CALL FOR CENTRAL FUNDING FOR OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS IS UNREALISTIC;
AND

(B) IN CONTRAST TO BILATERAL OPERATIONS, IT NOT FEASIBLE
OR APPROPRIATE TO SEEK IMPOSE DEVELOPMENTAL PRIORITIES WITHIN
MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK.

4. ALSO SEE SEPTTEL ON GOVERNOR GILLIGAN'S SPEECH TO UNDP FOR
FRENCH AND OTHER COMMENTS ON MATTERS RELATED TO ABOVE.
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